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ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY, *Held on the 21st May, 1853,* PROFESSOR H. H. WILSON, DIRECTOR, IN THE CHAIR.

THE FOLLOWING REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

WAS READ BY R. CLARKE, ESQ., HONORARY SECRETARY :—

THE Council have the satisfaction of commencing their Report on the transactions of the past year, with stating that the rule which relieves new members from the payment of an admission fee, and the substitution of evening lectures for six of the ordinary morning meetings, continue to influence favorably the admission of new members, the number of whom, in the past twelve months, was 32, consisting of 24 resident, and eight non-resident members.* Two members only have retired,† whereas the average, during the preceding ten years, gives an annual decrease of six by retirement. Three Members‡ have been

* Charles Alison, Esq.; John Henry Astell, Esq., M.P.; Councillor A. Auer; Rev. Dr. J. Arnold; Alexander Burn, Esq.; Col. M. Bagnold; Rev. John Baker, M.A.; George Campbell, Esq.; R. W. Crawford, Esq.; John Capper, Esq.; Rev. Jonathan Cape; William Dent, Esq.; Rev. Percival Frost; Professor Goldstücker; Thomas Holroyd, Esq.; Major H. Huddleston; Arthur B. Hill, Esq.; Thomas W. Henderson, Esq.; Thomas Henry, Esq.; Rev. W. Keene, M.A.; Dr. R. G. Latham; Lieut. E. G. Langmore; Kenneth R. H. Mackenzie, Esq.; William F. Parker, Esq.; Sir Thomas Erskine Perry; S. E. Rolland, Esq.; Col. Hugh Rose; Sir Henry Roper; James H. Skene, Esq.; Hon. F. Walpole, R.N.; William Parker Hammond, Esq.; Robert Wilkinson, Esq.

† Col. Thomas Wood; John Lawford, Esq.

‡ Major T. S. Burt; Capt. Granville Lock, R.N.; Thomas Bacon, Esq.

struck off under the Rules which direct that mode of removing the names of persons, who, after diligent inquiry and long delay, cannot be heard of, and have not paid their Annual Subscriptions. The number of deaths has been, of Resident and Non-Resident Members, 14 ; * and of Foreign and Corresponding Members, 3. The actual net increase in the number of Members of the Society is 10.

This Society, which has participated in the national feeling at the irreparable loss sustained by the death of our great commander and wise counsellor, laments, in that mournful event, the removal from its list of Members of the illustrious name of the DUKE OF WELLINGTON, one of its earliest associates. The praise of his mighty deeds belongs to other records than those of a literary Society, and is chronicled in history, and in the hearts of a grateful nation. It will not, however, be forgotten, that the first dawn of his victorious career opened on the plains of India ; and that the genius there displayed gave promise of future greatness, which the glorious events of his protracted life more than realised.

In the number of those whom the Society has lost by death, the names of Erskine, Atkinson, Lee, and Burnouf stand conspicuous, and the following brief notice of their labours will not be unacceptable to the meeting.

Mr. ERSKINE was born in Edinburgh, on the 8th of November, 1773 ; and passed the first portion of his life, from birth to manhood, in that city, receiving his education from the High School and the University, in which he acquired scholarship of the highest order, and knowledge of the most varied and valuable description, especially in the departments of law, political and social economy, history and antiquities. These pursuits he continued to cultivate with unabated ardour, during the leisure afforded him by his professional attendance on the office of a Writer to the Signet, being destined for the legal profession. The latter years of his academic, and the earlier ones of his professional career, comprehend a period, remarkable in the annals of the University of Edinburgh, for students, who afterwards became eminent as scholars, poets, critics, lawyers, and statesmen, including the names of Grahame, Campbell, Brougham, Horner, Leyden, Brown, and others, with whom Mr. Erskine associated at this time on the most intimate

* James Atkinson, Esq. ; John Brady, Esq. ; Lieut. - Col. J. Caulfield, C.B., M.P. ; Major-General T. Colby, F.R.S. ; William Erskine, Esq. ; James Ewing, Esq. ; Henry Hervey, Esq., F.R.S. ; Rev. Dr. Samuel Lee ; Thomas Pell Platt, Esq. ; G. R. Porter, Esq. ; James Ruddall Todd, Esq. ; John Trotter, Esq. ; Francis Warden, Esq. ; the Duke of Wellington.

and friendly footing, and with whom he maintained a cordial intercourse through many succeeding years.

After an interval of probationary study, Mr. Erskine engaged in professional practice; but finding it not altogether congenial to his tastes, he was disposed to direct his attention to other pursuits, when he was invited by Sir James Mackintosh, who had been appointed Recorder of Bombay, to accompany him to India, as his secretary. With this invitation he gladly complied; and left England for Bombay, in the beginning of 1804. Of the satisfaction which the appointment afforded to Sir James, and the estimation in which he held his secretary, Sir James has left his recorded testimony. "It was my good fortune," he observes, "to bring out with me a young Scotch gentleman, who is one of the most amiable, ingenious, and accurately informed men in the world." A connexion between individuals of such a stamp could not fail to ripen speedily into friendship; and it was subsequently still more closely cemented, Mr. Erskine becoming Sir James's son-in-law in 1809.

Thus recommended by his own merits, and by the influence of Sir James, an opportunity was soon found of placing him in an independent position, in which his abilities might have full exercise; and he was appointed one of the magistrates of Bombay. In 1820 he was nominated by Sir W. D. Evans, Master in Equity. Of the manner in which he discharged these public duties, we have the sentiments of the most competent judges, in the address presented to him on his departure in 1823, by the great body of the European Society, in which they state: "in public life we have observed you perform the arduous duties of various important situations with the most conciliatory address, the greatest ability, the strictest integrity, and the most benevolent, but impartial justice." Similar testimony was borne, on the same occasion, to the merits of Mr. Erskine's private character, as distinguished by the most engaging urbanity, the correctest feelings of a gentleman, the nicest principles of honour, and the loftiest sentiments of disinterestedness,—a character which the whole tenor of his subsequent life continued to deserve.

Mr. Erskine quitted India, with greatly impaired health, in 1823; and returned home by the way of China. After a residence of three years in Edinburgh, he repaired to Paris, where he lived for a similar term. He then returned to Scotland, and continued to reside there the rest of his life, with an interval of four years, from 1844 to 1848, passed at Bonn. He died in Edinburgh on the 20th May, 1852, in the 79th year of his age.

The novelty and interest of the objects around him on his arrival in India, naturally awakened, in a mind constituted like that of Mr.

Erskine, an eager desire to be qualified accurately to understand their history and character. For this purpose he engaged zealously in the cultivation of Oriental literature, particularly Persian, in which he very soon ranked with the most distinguished students, and to which he devoted the greater portion of his future leisure, with a success proportioned to his assiduity and talents. The same interest which he took personally in Oriental study, extended itself to the promotion of its cultivation by others; and in the year of his arrival in Bombay, he actively seconded the arrangements instituted by Sir James Mackintosh for the formation of the Literary Society of Bombay. Mr. Erskine, in the first instance, consented to undertake the office of Secretary; in which capacity he contributed most effectively to the credit and prosperity of the society. He subsequently held the station of Vice-President for some years before he quitted India, on which occasion the Society acknowledged his unremitting and judicious exertions as Secretary; his valuable contributions to its Transactions; and the readiness with which that assistance and advice, which his intimate acquaintance with Classical, Modern, and Oriental literature, his sound judgment, and correct and cultivated taste had enabled him to give to others, was always afforded.

The contributions of Mr. Erskine to the early volumes of the Transactions of the Literary Society of Bombay, are amongst the most valuable of their contents: they are five in number. In the first, "Observations on two Sepulchral Urns found at Bushir," the author showed from early Greek writers, that the ancient Persians did not abandon their dead on their sepulchral towers, but interred their bones, after they had been blanched and purified by the exposure of the corpse to the air. The next paper, "An Account of the Cave Temples of Elephanta," is remarkable for its refined taste, as well as its extensive and accurate knowledge of Indian antiquities and mythology. In his next paper, "On the Sacred Books and Religion of the Parsis," he elucidated the ancient history of the people, and their literature, from original as well as classical authority, and furnished authentic accounts of the existing tenets of the Parsis. Mr. Erskine, in this paper, was inclined to adopt the opinion of Sir William Jones, and Colonel Vans Kennedy, of the Indian origin of the Zend language; but the philological labours of later writers induced him to change his views in this respect, as we learn from the Rev. Dr. Wilson's memorial of his literary researches, read to the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. At the same time, as Dr. Wilson remarks, one of his most important theses on the Zend language—that it is not the parent of modern Persian,—may now be easily established, the Zend, in its two dialects, having been the language of Sogdia and Bactria, the literary fragments

of which are older than the time of the Achaemenides, and different from, although allied to, the language of the Inscriptions at Bisitun.

In his fourth dissertation, which displays critical acumen of the highest order, and extensive conversancy with Persian literature, Mr. Erskine disposes, beyond further controversy, of the authenticity and value of the two celebrated fabrications,—the *Desatir* and *Dabistan*.

Mr. Erskine's last communication was "Observations on the Remains of the Buddhists in India," in which all that was known at the time was collected in a clear and elegant manner; and the questions of chief interest were discussed with that comprehensiveness of inquiry, and deliberate exactness, which were especially characteristic of all his compositions.

Besides these contributions to the pages of the "Transactions," Mr. Erskine devoted a portion of his time to completing the translation of the "Autobiographical Memoirs of the Emperor Baber," from the Jughatai Turki, in which they were originally written. The translation was commenced by Dr. Leyden, but he had made but little progress in it at the time of his death in 1811; and the history of India, and of mankind, would have wanted one of its most interesting and important illustrations, had the MS. remained in the state in which it had been left. A regard for the fair fame of his early friend, as well as a conviction of the intrinsic value of the work, induced Mr. Erskine to acquire the language of the original, and to complete the translation, which was finished and sent home in 1817, but its publication was delayed until 1826, by which an opportunity was given to Mr. Erskine of revising his work, and conducting it himself through the press. The translation was preceded by a copious and learned dissertation on the history and geography of the countries in which the descendants of Jangez Khan and Timur flourished; and by various notes and supplementary additions of the greatest historical and topographical value, presenting a body of information almost entirely new to European research. The publication was reviewed most favorably in the "Edinburgh Review" by the late Lord Jeffrey, and the review is republished in his Essays. A more competent, though not a more eloquent critic, was, however, found in the celebrated Sylvestre De Sacy, to whose great Oriental knowledge the subject was familiar, and who has made the life of Baber the subject of two highly commendatory and analytical memoirs in the "Journal des Savans," for May and June, 1829.

After the publication of the Memoirs, Mr. Erskine confined his contributions to Oriental literature to a few articles in the "Edinburgh Review," chiefly in connexion with Indian travels, and the latter portion of the life of Lord Clive, which Sir John Malcolm's death had left unfinished. He was not, however, less diligently occupied; and although much interrupted by applications for literary information and assistance,

—constituting a serious demand upon his time, but which he was always ready to afford, he pursued the courses of investigations which the *Memoirs of Baber* had recommended,—the history of the Uzbek princes, and particularly that of the sovereigns of Hindustan descended from Timur. On the former subject, Mr. Erskine's son possesses some important documents, prepared by his father. On the latter, there have been left the reigns of Baber, and of his son, Humayun, in a state fit for publication; all which, therefore, it is to be hoped, will be printed, as forming an invaluable addition to our materials for the authentic illustration of the history of India, and for an accurate appreciation of the foundations of the system of Indian administration which have served as the ground-work of our own.

MR. JAMES ATKINSON was born in the county of Durham, on the 9th of March, 1780. After passing through the usual course of preparatory training, he entered upon the study of the medical profession, which he pursued, first in Edinburgh, and finally in London; cultivating, at the same time, those natural talents for literature and art which distinguished him throughout the whole of his subsequent career. An early proof of his literary propensities was afforded by his publication of a poetical romance, entitled "*Rodolpho*," which was printed at Edinburgh in 1801, and was favorably noticed by contemporary criticism. His first introduction to India was as a medical officer on board an Indiaman; but in 1805 he was appointed an assistant-surgeon on the Bengal Establishment. Shortly after his arrival in India, he was placed in medical charge of the civil station of Backergunj, where he remained till the beginning of 1813. As his professional duties left him sufficient leisure, he devoted it to the successful study of the Oriental languages, especially of Persian. His taste for the fine arts also received a fresh impetus from his intimacy with Sir Charles Doyley, who was collector of Dacca from 1809 to 1812, and who is well known as an amateur artist of extraordinary talent, and with Mr. Chinnery, who was, during part of the time, resident also at Dacca, and whose high professional abilities are acknowledged in this country by his brethren. The vicinity of Backergunj to Dacca admitted of easy intercourse; and the similarity of tastes, and, in some respects, of humours, begot a friendship between these three gentlemen which lasted during the rest of their lives.

The literary and artistic merits of Mr. Atkinson having attracted the favorable notice of the Governor-General, Lord Minto, whose sympathies had been early enlisted, as the friend of Johnson, Goldsmith, and Burke, in intellectual pursuits, and who was ever ready to give them friendly encouragement, his lordship availed himself of a favorable opportunity of bringing Mr. Atkinson to Calcutta, by appointing him assistant to the

Assay Master in the Calcutta Mint, in which office he remained till 1820, with a brief interval in 1818, during which he officiated as Assistant Persian Professor in the College of Fort William; and with the intermission of a visit to England in 1826-7. This appointment he held, in conjunction with that of Superintendent of the "Government Gazette," to which he was appointed early in 1817; and although the official connection of the Government with the press was discontinued in 1823, yet the success with which it had been conducted under Mr. Atkinson's superintendence induced the proprietors, the Governors of the Orphan School, to conclude an arrangement with him, by which, for a stipulated annual payment of considerable amount, the "Gazette" and the "Press" were left to his sole management. They continued to prosper whilst he remained in charge, the "Gazette" being made the vehicle of much new and valuable topographical and statistical information with respect to countries on the frontiers of India previously little known, which rendered it an authority even with continental geographers.

In 1828, Mr. Atkinson paid a second visit to England, and took that opportunity of making himself acquainted with the progress of surgical and medical science in the schools of both London and Paris. On his return to India in 1833, he resumed his professional career, being attached as surgeon to the 55th Regiment, N.I.

In 1838, he was appointed Superintending Surgeon of the Army of the Indus, and accompanied it on its march from Shikarpore to Kabul. Shortly after the surrender of Dost Mahommed he was relieved, in the course of duty, of the medical charge of the force, and returned to Bengal in 1841,—thus fortunately escaping the fate which was reserved for so many of his brave companions in arms. In 1845 he was appointed a member of the Medical Board, from which he retired in 1847, after a service of forty-two years. He died of an attack of apoplexy, on the 7th of August, 1852.

As soon as he was in a situation to bring his literary pursuits to maturity, Mr. Atkinson entered zealously upon the task; and in little more than a year after his residence in Calcutta, published his poetical version of an extensive and interesting episode of the "Shah Namah," the adventures of Sohrab, the son of Rustam, illustrating the Persian author by analogous passages from the standard poets of the West, which exhibited a most extensive familiarity with the best writers, not only in English, but in Italian and the classical languages,—a range of scholarship the more remarkable, as it must have been, in a great measure, self-acquired. The Persian text was also edited by him and printed. His next publication was a poetical tale called the "Aubid," عابد which was printed in 1819, and about the same time he edited the popular Persian story of "Hafim Tacc," for the use of the

junior students of the college. This was followed in 1823 by the translation of "*Ricciarda*," a tragedy, by Ugo Foscolo. In the same year appeared the first volume of a work, partly original, partly compiled by Mr. Atkinson, in conjunction with Mr. Wilson, the "*Calcutta Annual Register*," intended to furnish a contemporaneous record of passing events in our Indian Empire. This volume embraced the occurrences of 1821, and a second volume those of 1822; but there the work ceased for want of sufficient encouragement. In the miscellaneous portion of the first volume is a poetical monody, by Mr. Atkinson, on the death of the Earl of Minto, an affectionate tribute to the memory of his first patron, written in 1814. The second contains copious extracts from a volume of poems published by him in 1824, containing, "*The City of Palaces*," the story of "*Peer Mohammed*," and of "*Bowma Khan*," written in the same metre, and in that mixed strain of humour, sarcasm, and seriousness which Lord Byron's "*Beppo*" had recently made popular. In the same year, a political squib, entitled "*Prospectus of the Calcutta Liberal*," was published by Mr. Atkinson, who, although far from being an ardent politician, was not disposed to attach much value to many of the schemes then afloat for the improvement of society in India.

On his first visit to England, Mr. Atkinson completed and published his translation of the *Secchia Rapita* of Alessandro Tassoni; and on his second, he became an industrious contributor to the publications of the Oriental Translation Fund. His most considerable work was an abridged version and epitome of the great poem of Firdusi, the "*Shah Namah*;" the narrative, in its level passages being translated in prose, and many, rising into poetry and passion, in blank verse, or occasionally in rhyme. At the end the episode of Sohrab is reprinted. The great length, and in many respects, tediousness of the entire "*Shah Namah*," renders it little likely that a translation of the whole poem would ever be acceptable to an English public; and from this abridgment they may be able to appreciate with some degree of accuracy, the merits of the composition. The translation was honoured, deservedly, by the gold medal of the Translation Fund.

Another work, published about the same time, was a translation of a Persian treatise, on the customs and manners of the women of Persia, an exceedingly amusing little book, shewing, as the translator remarks, the actual state of Persian life behind the curtain. The publication is embellished by an imaginary portrait of a Persian lady, drawn on stone by the translator; and it was at this time that the Society was indebted to Mr. Atkinson for the portrait of the Earl of Munster, which preserves to us an excellent likeness of one whose memory the Society must ever treasure as that of one of its most earnest and zealous supporters and

friends. During this visit also Mr. Atkinson found other opportunities of cultivating his talents as a painter, and executed copies of European paintings of celebrity, especially of two of Titian's female portraits, which are highly finished specimens of art.

On his return to India, Mr. Atkinson continued his labours in Persian literature, and contributed to the Translation Fund a poetical version of the celebrated poem of Nizami, "On the loves of Laili and Majnun," mystified as the reciprocal affection of body and soul. This is perhaps the most carefully finished of Mr. Atkinson's translations, and conveys a pleasing, and sufficiently faithful representation of the original.

The Afghan war called Mr. Atkinson away from his tranquil studies, but only to enlarge his opportunities of observation, and furnish additional evidence of his talents in both the departments he cultivated. In 1842 was published in London his account of the expedition into Afghanistan, with notes and sketches descriptive of the country, contained in a personal narrative during the campaign, to the surrender of Dost Mahommed Khan, and of the author's return through the Punjab to Ferozpur. The work is full of interesting details, including a translation of a short autobiography of the unfortunate Shah Shooja. At the same time appeared a series of lithographed drawings, entitled "Sketches in Afghanistan," illustrating the features of the country through which the army marched, various interesting incidents of the campaign, and the aspect of the capital, Kabul. Nothing can be more strikingly characteristic of the countries and of the people with whom we were, now for the first time brought acquainted, and the difficulties and dangers to which the troops were exposed will be better conceived from a cursory inspection of these graphic records, than from volumes of description.

These short notices of Mr. Atkinson's literary and artistic labours are sufficient to establish his claim to be considered as one of those who have most successfully contributed to promote the objects of this Society, by giving to Oriental literature, and to the history of India, popular and attractive as well as authentic and instructive forms.

Among the distinguished Orientalists whose names have graced the list of Members of this Society we have numbered the Rev. Dr. Samuel Lee, who for nearly thirty years was Regius Professor of Hebrew in the University of Cambridge. He resigned that office in 1848, and died in December, 1852, in the sixty-ninth year of his age. The literary career of Dr. Lee was remarkable, as it was entered upon without any of the ordinary advantages of instruction from masters, in or out of school, and during the laborious occupation of apprenticeship to the trade of a carpenter. In the two last years of that hard life, he began

Latin ; and having methodically mastered the best grammar he could obtain, read the Latin Bible, and portions of the works of the best authors, in verse and prose.

As soon as he was released from his apprenticeship, he adopted, with great success, a similar course for the acquirement of Greek, as he had pursued in Latin. His ardent love for the study of languages next led him to take up the Hebrew, which he pursued amidst privations, discouragements, and frequent suffering from inflammation of the eyes. His admirable perseverance surmounted all obstacles ; and he added to his attainments in Hebrew, the acquirement of the cognate Syriac and Chaldee.

At the age of 25, he married ; and while he was purposing to occupy himself in some pursuit which would give better promise of support than he could then anticipate from the study of languages in a remote country town, and in his humble condition in life, a fire consumed all the valuables he possessed, and he was cast on the world, apparently friendless and penniless.

His literary labours, however, had not been unobserved, and his meritorious industry was beginning to find some reward. Archdeacon Corbett, of Shrewsbury, sent for Lee, and after an interview, which enabled him to ascertain and appreciate the extent of Lee's attainments, obtained for him the situation of Master of the Blue Coat School of Shrewsbury. Mr. Corbett soon after introduced Mr. Lee to Dr. Jonathan Scott, once the secretary to Warren Hastings, and at that time Oriental Professor at the Royal Military College, and at the Military Seminary of the East India Company. This excellent Oriental scholar encouraged and aided Lee in the acquirement of Arabic, Persian, and Hindustani, which he taught him to pronounce with Eastern euphony.

In 1813, being then 30 years of age, Leo entered Queen's College, Cambridge, where his talents and industry had full scope for development, and where he gradually rose to higher eminence in honors and reputation. In 1819 he was elected Professor of Arabic, and received the degree of M.A. by Royal mandate ; and in 1831, he was chosen to fill the Chair of Regius Professor of Hebrew.

Three years after his matriculation, he published his Syriac New Testament, for which the University of Halle in Saxony conferred upon him the degree of D.D. He was raised to the same degree in his own University in 1833.

His Hebrew grammar, published in 1832, is in high estimation ; and besides his edition of the book of Job, and his Syriac Old Testament, he added to his literary reputation by editing a Syriac version of Eusebius on the Theophaia. The original of this treatise was after-

wards edited at the expense of the Society for the Publication of Oriental texts.

Several Scriptural and devotional works put forth by him, in Coptic, Persian, Hindustani and Arabic, have rendered important aid to the cause of true religion, and to its extension and revival in Eastern lands; while many theological and controversial publications, in our own languages, bear testimony to his zeal and ability in those departments of sacred literature.

Dr. Lee's connexion with this Society was marked by his undertaking to furnish to the Oriental Translation Fund a translation from the Arabic of the travels of Ibn Batuta,—a work which he executed with fidelity and taste, and for which he received the well-earned tribute of the gold medal instituted by His Majesty, King George the Fourth.

Monsieur EUGÈNE BURNOUF was born at Paris in 1801. His father was known to classical scholars as the author of a very useful and compendious Greek grammar, which has been much used in the schools of France. Eugène Burnouf was a pupil of Chezy, one of the earliest cultivators of Sanscrit literature on the continent, and the first who gave public lessons in that language in Europe. His progress under Chezy was rapid; and as early as the year 1824, he was able to give instruction in the Sanscrit language. In 1826, he published in conjunction with Professor Lassen, of Bonn, the well-known "*Essai sur le Pali*," in which they first communicated to European scholars the knowledge of a language immediately derived from the Sanscrit, and the principal vehicle by which the doctrines of Buddha are disseminated in Ceylon, and the peninsula beyond the Ganges. In the Normal School of Paris, a Professorship of General and Comparative Grammar was founded in 1829, to which M. Burnouf was appointed, and in which he continued to labour until 1833: on his retirement, the Chair was abolished. His lectures during this period were imperfectly written down by his hearers, and lithographed copies are much sought after by pupils at the college: but M. B. St. Hilaire informs us that his own MS. of the first two years of his course exists among the papers left by him. In 1831 Burnouf gained the prize founded by Volney for the transcription of the Asiatic languages in Roman letters, and his treatise was crowned by the Institute. Two years after this, Burnouf published the work by which he is, perhaps, best known to Oriental scholars—his "*Commentary on the Yaçna*," in which, through the medium of the Sanscrit translation of the Yaçna, he corrected many of the errors of Anquetil du Perron, and first gave accurate and authentic versions of the Zend text, and ample and important illustrations of the

literature, language, and history of the Parsis, by enabling European scholars to prosecute the cultivation of this department of learning, and bring it to its present state of development. Nor did his contributions to the cultivation of Zend here cease; his labours were followed up in his "*Etudes sur la langue Zende*," a series of papers which were published from 1840 to 1850, in the "*Journal Asiatique*," and afterwards collected in a separate volume. It is also understood that he has left MS. notes on the same subject sufficient for several volumes, which it would be highly acceptable to every student in the language to see in print. It is an interesting testimony to the confidence felt in M. Burnouf's interpretations of the text, that in the controversy between the Parsis and the Protestant Missionaries at Bombay, both parties adopted the readings furnished by him in his Commentary. The impulse given to the study of the Zend language by the labours of Burnouf was extensively felt, and there are now several editions of the Zend Avesta in existence, two of which were published in Bombay, and the rest in Europe. Others are in course of publication, one by Professor Westergaard of Copenhagen; another by Professor Lassen; and a third by Dr. Spiegel. We are not aware that the edition commenced at Hamburg, by Olshausen, has since been proceeded with. A very useful edition for the general philologist was published by Brockhaus, in 1850, in the Roman character, with a copious index, and a small vocabulary.

The knowledge of the ancient language of Persia, communicated in the "*Commentaire sur le Yaçna*," has been of the greatest service in the decipherment of the Cuneiform Inscriptions; and it is not, perhaps, too much to say that, without it, the labours of Rawlinson, of Lassen, of Holtzmann, and of others who have been most successful in this difficult task, would have produced less decisive results than those which have followed their investigation.

In his "*Mémoire sur Deux Inscriptions Cunéiformes*," published in Paris, in 1836, M. Burnouf, by the aid of the geographical list contained in the Inscription of Darius at Persepolis, published by Niebuhr, made considerable addition to the alphabet of the language. The *Mémoire* was a great step in advance of all that had gone before; and from the writer's accurate knowledge of the Zend, he was able to furnish valuable hints for those followers who have made the Cuneiform inscriptions an especial subject of investigation.

M. Burnouf had undertaken to supply the magnificent Collection Orientale, published by the French Government, with the text and a translation of the Bhagavat Purana. His death has prevented the completion of his task, which has been interrupted after the publication of three volumes, the careful execution of which renders the want of the remaining volumes still more a subject of regret. The published volumes

are preceded by valuable dissertations, throwing great light upon the work itself, and of the history of the Hindu religion, both of the Vaidic and Pauranic periods.

An introduction to the history of Indian Buddhism was the last work published by M. Burnouf; and that also was interrupted by his death, only one volume having been printed. This work was the result of a most careful and laborious study of the original manuscript authorities, obtained by M. Hodgson in Nepaul, and presented to the Asiatic Society of Paris, containing a complete corpus of Bauddha literature. Although unfinished, it is the most authentic and authoritative contribution to the study of Buddhism yet published. Unfortunately, it does not appear that there are any materials left by the author for a second volume of this invaluable treatise.

Subsequently to M. Burnouf's decease, an additional contribution to the illustration of the history of Buddhism has been printed. It is a translation of an original Sanscrit work of authority, and is entitled "*Le Lotus de la Bonne Loi*." But besides this translation, the volume, a thick quarto, contains what is still more valuable, a series of dissertations on a variety of topics relating to Buddhism, and especially a most careful and able examination of all that has been published on the inscriptions of the pillars, and the rocks of Delhi, Gimar, Dhauri, and Kapurdigiri. Bringing to the inquiry a knowledge of Pali and of Buddhism, the superiority of which his predecessors would be the first to acknowledge, and having the advantage of their previous speculations, the value of which M. Burnouf with his never-failing candour recognizes, we may look upon his researches as conclusive, and feel satisfied that they have eliminated from these remains of antiquity, all the information they are capable of affording.

Besides this posthumous publication, M. Burnouf has left other works in MS., some of which are nearly ready for printing. The oriental scholar will be very much interested by four large folio volumes, making from two to three thousand pages, containing full indexes to all the Zend words found in the *Vendidad Sade*, with the variants of the several editions, forming a complete Zend dictionary, which will be an invaluable aid to those who are now laboriously endeavouring to get a knowledge of the Zend without it. Several other works on the Zend language and monuments are also found very nearly complete among Burnouf's MSS. Among the Sanscrit papers left, is an index to Panini, containing all the axioms in alphabetical order. This is quite ready for the printer. A Pali grammar has been also found, nearly complete, and a Pali dictionary; besides a very considerable mass of MSS., some prepared and completed for the press, and others intended to be so.

The list is given in the memoir of M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, from which chiefly this article is abridged. Although copious, the writer informs us that it does not contain all the valuable remains left by Burnouf.

It may safely be said that no European orientalist has exhibited a greater amount of research, penetration, and industry than M. Burnouf; nor has any one surpassed him in the clearness and precision with which he has recorded the results of his labours. He is entitled, also, to high commendation for characteristic merits which literary men do not always exhibit, a becoming though unnecessary diffidence in the value of his own labours, and a candid and generous appreciation of the labours of other oriental scholars engaged in the same pursuits as those which formed the object and happiness of his existence.

Shortly before his demise, M. Burnouf was nominated Secrétaire Perpétuel de l'Académie des Inscriptions. He had been a member of the Institute of France since 1832.

The researches of the French agents on the site of Khorsabad, where M. Botta made the first discovery of Assyrian palaces, have been continued by M. Place with much success. The first result of his researches among the conical mounds, which appear to indicate the wall of the ancient city, was the discovery of a number of small articles of cornelian, agate, and marble, beautifully polished. There were also many ivory trinkets, which however, with barely an exception, crumbled to dust at the first touch. One of the mounds contained a vast staircase, or succession of terraces, formed of bricks covered with inscriptions, beneath which a species of corridor, of the most perfect masonry, has been laid open, nearly thirty yards in length. This is surrounded by another concentric vault, which is said to have no outlet, but there is some difficulty about the description, which can hardly be understood without a drawing. In another part of the same mound a chamber was found, containing an immense quantity of articles of earthenware, most of which are, unfortunately, broken; but a few jars of small dimensions have been preserved uninjured. The doors which closed this chamber have perished, but the brass hinges and pivots yet remain, as well as the stones in which the pivots turned. Some of the jars contained small copper articles, such as are seen represented on the Assyrian bas-reliefs. Another chamber was the Assyrian wine cellar, containing a number of jars nearly four feet in height, in which a violet coloured sediment is yet seen, that must once have been wine. Two long colonnades of clay, covered with stucco, very closely arranged, with all the pillars yet standing, form a new feature of Assyrian architecture; a

considerable number of the columns have already been traced, and there is every appearance that the series continues much further. M. Place has also continued to lay open the sculptured remains of the édifice ruiné of M. Botta ; but which he gives many plausible reasons for considering rather an edifice in the course of construction. He has sent to Paris several photographic sketches of the sculpture which adorned this edifice, and has painted some of them in the proper colours, with real Assyrian pigments found in digging among the ruins. A black paint is mentioned among others, also vermilion ; and a piece of the most splendid ultra-marine has been picked up, as large as a pigeon's egg.

A sort of Cyclopean road, formed like the celebrated Appian way, of irregular polygons of stone, led to the discovery of a gateway of the city, in perfect preservation, eleven yards in height, by something more than three and a quarter in width. It is built of large bricks, and is constructed in a wall of the same height, covered with a layer of lime, which is believed to be the foundation of a tower, by which the entrance to the city was defended.

It is impossible to read the account of these discoveries,—of such high interest,—without feeling gratified at the good understanding which exists between the French and English authorities in those remote regions. M. Place gracefully admits that he was led to some promising results by the words of our gifted countryman, Colonel Rawlinson, who said to him, when they were walking together over the plain of Khorsabad,—“ Why do you confine yourself to this mound, and the smaller heaps around you, when you have a whole city at your feet ? ” He then repeated to M. Place the translation of an inscription of Sargon, published by Botta :—“ I built a city bearing my name, and in it a palace for myself, and temples for the gods, habitations for the priests, barracks for the soldiers, markets for traders, and houses for my servants.”

We learn from the French accounts that the numerous inscribed cylinders, painted tiles, vessels of clay, metal and glass, trinkets, utensils, and other objects discovered at Khorsabad, will form the nucleus of an Assyrian museum in Paris, which the Government is understood to be making its efforts to extend by continuing the researches so fortunately commenced.

The same French report from which the above paragraph is taken, alludes to the beautiful gold ornaments, cylinders, vases of sculptured basalt, and admirably wrought objects of ivory, discovered by the English at Sherif Khan ; and the letters of Colonel Rawlinson from time to time give evidence of the success of his researches.

Among the objects of interest recently received from Colonel Rawlinson, is the sketch of a bronze lion, which was found at Nebi Yunus, having on it an inscription which was read, "Esarhaddon, King of Kings, Conqueror of Misr and Cush," or Egypt and Ethiopia, curiously confirming the account of Esarhaddon's conquests on the Nile, which Colonel Rawlinson had some time previously transmitted, as extracted from the annals of that monarch.

In another letter, Colonel Rawlinson enclosed a copy of an inscription in a Semitic alphabet, something between the Sabæan and Chaldee, being one of a numerous collection of inscriptions written upon thin pieces of sheet-lead, closely packed in sepulchral jars, which were found at a place called Abushudhr, near the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates, about midway between the two streams. The characters are exceedingly minute, but they would probably be decipherable by a good Semitic scholar. About the same time the Colonel transmitted a list of Babylonian months, found on a species of calendar, by the aid of which the succession of events recorded in the great inscription of Bisitûn may be, to some extent, ascertained, and the Persian calendar by which the dates are stated in that monument approximately determined.

The last letter just received from Colonel Rawlinson, informs us that after preparing, with great pains, a full account of his recent labours and discoveries, intended to be read at this annual meeting, he had dispatched it by the mail, which unfortunately had been plundered on its way by the Anezeh Arabs, and the whole of the Foreign Correspondence distributed among those marauders, who are said to be now wearing the unknown Babylonian characters as amulets. The press of public business consequent upon this loss, precluded the possibility of preparing another copy of the papers; but the Colonel has found time to write off a hurried account of some of the prominent points. The most important document which had reached him was the long-expected cylinder from Kileh Shirgat,—a splendid relic, containing 800 lines of beautiful writing, at least 100 years older than the oldest monument hitherto discovered. It was, when found, broken into a hundred fragments, and in some parts, even reduced to powder; but the whole was now carefully joined together, and barely a dozen lines lost. The Colonel says: "It contains the bulletins of the Tiglath Pileser I.—a King who is mentioned in the annals of Assur-akh-pal, as a remote ancestor, who carried his arms far to the northward, and set up tablets at the sources of the Supnat (or, river of Sophene, one of the head streams of the Tigris.) Unfortunately, Tiglath Pileser does not give his genealogy; but the two immediate predecessors of Assur-akh-pal are already known; and Divanuras, the builder of Calah, must also, I think, intervene between

the connected series and this king, as there is no mention on the cylinder either of Calah or Nineveh; the capital of the empire, in fact, at that early period, being Kileh Shirgat itself, which is everywhere on the cylinder named Assur, as it also is on the sitting figure in the museum." Colonel Rawlinson goes on to say :—" I cannot even give a *resumé* of the contents of an inscription of 800 lines : all I can say is that the King warred principally in Armenia, Cappadocia, Pontus, and on the shores of the Euxine ; but that he also crossed the Kurdish mountains to the east, and the Euphrates to the west, taking Carchemish of the Hittites, and overrunning Northern Syria and Cilicia : he never attempted to penetrate towards Palestine, the House of Benhadad (Hezion, or Tab-rimmon ?) being at that time, probably, all powerful in Cele Syria. In one paragraph Tiglath Pileser gives a list of some fifty countries which he overran in Asia Minor, but very few of the names survived, even to the period of Assur-akh-pal and Deleboras ; of course, therefore, they cannot be identified in classical geography. These glimpses of the political and ethnical state of Western Asia, a very little after the time of Solomon, are, however, full of interest ; and as we have at length broken ground in the times anterior to the Assyrian Augustan age,—that, I mean, of the glories of Nineveh and Calah, I do not despair of ascending up to the institution of the monarchy.*

" What I have been particularly struck with in the Tiglath Pileser inscription is, that the writing is better, the language more polished, and the grammatical distinctions more nicely marked than in the later legends. This is nothing more than we might have expected, all language becoming purer as we ascend to the source ; but it annihilates all my theories about the modernicity of the Assyrian civilization. Of course, I cannot say positively, that Nineveh was not built in Tiglath Pileser's age ; but it is, to say the least of it, very curious, that if built and inhabited, it should never be once named. The capital was, at any

* In a letter received from Col. Rawlinson since the anniversary meeting, that gentleman enclosed a list of the royal Assyrian line, which he carries up to the close of the fourteenth century B.C. In reference to this list, he says, " At the end of the historical part of the Tiglath Pileser cylinder, I found what I had been hunting for, a genealogy of, and numerous allusions to, the ancestors of the king ; the result is, that I believe we have at length ascended beyond the institution of the monarchy. I enclose you a sketch of the royal line ; of course the reading of the names is not quite determined, for we have no sufficient evidence as yet of the Phonetic rendering of the names of the Sun, and of the other god whom I am inclined to read Aben ; I have computed the chronology on an assumed average of thirty years to each reign." The list contains twenty-five names, of which the Obelisk King, the contemporary of Jehu and Hazael, is the fifteenth. The two first-named are not designated as kings, and they are therefore believed to have preceded the institution of the monarchy.

rate, at Kileh Shirgat, then named Assur, and this is, of course, the *Allasar* of Genesis, of which Arioch was the king. It is also the Tel Assur of the Targums, which is used for the Mosaic Resen; and instead, therefore, of Resen being between Nineveh and Calah, it should be Calah, which was between Nineveh and Resen. I consider these three sites to be now determinately fixed,—Nineveh at Nebbi Yunus, Calah at Nimrud, and Resen at Shirgat.

“Another recent discovery of much interest is a slab of Sennacherib’s, found by the Turks at Nebbi Yunus. It contains an account of two campaigns, later, apparently, than those chronicled in the annals. One was against a son of Merodach Baladan, who had established himself in Chaldaea and Susiana; and the other against the confederate Kings of the East, among whom occur the Persians. Unfortunately, the Persian King’s name is not given; but there are interesting geographical notices.

“The new broken obelisk from Nimrud has not yet reached me; but I expect much from it. It evidently, from the description, is not a duplicate of the old one, but an independent trophy, and belonging to a new king. I hope it may turn out to contain the annals of Divanuras, the builder of Calah.

“I now turn to the real treasure house of discovery, about which I gave you full particulars in my last. I have found fragments of alphabets, syllabaria, and explanations of ideographic signs. In one place, a table of notation, giving the phonetic readings of all the signs, and shewing that the Assyrians counted by sixties, as well as by hundreds, in exact agreement with the *soss*, *sar*, and *ner*, of Berossus. The numbers are completely Semitic, and of great interest. Among the tablets there are also elaborate dissections of the Pantheon; geographical dissertations explaining the ideographic signs for countries and cities, designating their products, and describing their position; the same with the principal Asiatic rivers and mountains. Again, there are treatises on weights and measures, divisions of time, points of the compass, &c., &c. There is an almanack for twelve years, which seems to form a cycle like that of the Mongols. I find, indeed, that all the old annals are numbered according to this cycle, each year having a particular name, generally that of a god. Again, we have lists of stones, metals, and trees; also astronomical and astrological formula without end. I suspect, likewise, there are veritable *grammars* and *dictionaries*.

“The whole collection is in fragments, but it gives us a most curious insight into the state of Assyrian science whilst Greece was still sunk in barbarism. What I regard, however, as most important, is the series of dynasties, or rather of the Kings and their households, or cabinets.

Every King has a separate compartment, and his name is followed by a list of other names, varying from six to thirty. If we ever find a complete tablet of this class, the historical succession will be established. At present I have only fragments of the list, but I have already recovered from them several new royal names, and make little doubt but that when I am able to go through the museum collection, I shall complete the series. The tablets upon which I have been engaged form, it must be remembered, the lower stratum,—the debris, in fact, of the Royal library, while Layard's collection, which was first found, and formed the upper layer, is, of course, in much better preservation. I gave you in my last copies of portions of the syllabaria, and the table of notation, but have really no time to make another copy for you. I have been delighted, amongst other things, to find the ideographs for Warka or Erech; Accad or Kaskar; Calneh or Niffer, &c.; and I have thus, at length, got a sure footing in the slippery field of Babylonian geography. The most difficult portion of the subject is still the Pantheon,—the explanations being usually as obscure as the text. I have not yet found a list of the phonetic readings of the names, but I can hardly doubt that such a list exists, from the frequent occurrence of similar explanations in regard to other subjects. Altogether, I am delighted at the splendid field now opening out. The labour of carrying through a complete analysis will be immense, but the results will be brilliant.

“I have really no time to go into other matters, but I cannot resist mentioning that we have also found a splendid ruin in Southern Chaldaea, named Abu Shahrein, apparently full of marbles and sculptures, and which I shall duly attend to in the autumn.”

The Council have great satisfaction in laying before the meeting an important work, the result of the assiduous industry and acumen of Mr. Norris, to whom the Society is already indebted for the great care and labour bestowed by him on the publication in the Society's *Journal*, of Colonel Rawlinson's invaluable discoveries. Mr. Norris's acquirements in eastern philology, the zeal with which he has devoted himself to follow up the development of the system of arrow-headed characters, thought for centuries to be hopelessly undecipherable, and the ingenious application of the knowledge so acquired to the solution of an additional problem in cuneatic discovery, reflect the highest honour on his talents and industry; and while his labours thus enable the Society to add to the stores already acquired in this branch of study, they promise to open a field to the further progress of discovery in the same direction.

The work, of which a not quite complete copy is now on the table, is a version of one of the columns of the Behistun Inscription, in a lan-

guage and character which, at its discovery, were thought to be Median. It has been lithographed from the paper impression taken by Colonel Rawlinson, and copies of the plates are given, with a literal transcription in Roman letters. To these are added a verbal translation, and Mr. Norris's Memoir on the Alphabet and Language,—the whole forming a part of the Society's Journal. In the Memoir, it is assumed that the language in which the Inscription was written, was that of the Nomadic tribes who inhabited the Persian Empire; and the Memoir sets forth the grounds on which that assumption rests, and which appear to prove that it is allied, grammatically, and, to a small extent, verbally, also, with the so-called Scythic languages, and especially with the Ugrian branch of that class. The interest of the Memoir is especially philological, and its great value will consist in the further aid it will probably afford in settling the meaning of some passages in the Persian text, while it may be fairly anticipated that the Assyrian, through which alone we can expect any increase to our acquaintance with the ancient history of man, may receive from these publications, additional illustration.

The Evening Lectures, the success of which, in the past year, was a subject of congratulation in the Council's last Report, have been continued during the present season. Five have been delivered, and one more is in preparation. The result has been a full illustration of several important subjects, and an increased interest, on the part of the public, in the labours of the Society.

The first lecture of the present season, was delivered by the Director, upon the Vedas, illustrating the structure and contents of those remarkable books, now no longer hidden in mystery, but actually in course of being printed in the original, and translated into English, and other European languages.

G. B. Greenough, Esq., delivered the second lecture, on the "Physical Structure of India," illustrating especially the river system of the country. The Council hope that Mr. Greenough will carry on the subject into its further branches, on some future occasion.

Dr. R. G. Latham delivered the third lecture, on the "Trans-Gangetic Languages," and such as are connected with them by their Monosyllabic Structure, and are spoken, with scarcely an exception, by the nations inhabiting the countries watered by the south-eastern rivers of Asia.

The fourth lecture, "On Indian products known to the ancients," was by Dr. Royle, who exhibited to his auditory an interesting and extensive collection of specimens, identifying them with articles described by the Greek and Roman writers of the classic age.

The fifth lecture was by James Fergusson, Esq., "On the recent

changes which had taken place in the bed of the Ganges ;" more especially those which had occurred since the survey of the river, effected eighty years ago. The lecture was of peculiar interest, from the connexion shewn necessarily to have existed, and still to exist, between the courses of these mighty streams, and the civilization and prosperity of the regions through which they flow.

The sixth lecture will be delivered by Dr. J. Bird, on the Greek Empire of the Seleucidæ, and its influence on the manners and customs of the East.

Oriental Translation Committee.

In noticing the proceedings of the committee of the Oriental Translation Fund, the council have to announce that that body has published during the past year, the sixth volume of the "Bibliographical and Biographical Lexicon" of Haji Khalfa; and they have the satisfaction to learn that the translator and editor, Professor Flügel, is now actively engaged in preparing for the press a supplementary volume, which will include various notices of Mahomedan works, written subsequently to the time of Haji Khalfa.

The committee have aided by their patronage, and are about to issue to their subscribers, a spirited and pleasing poetical translation from the Sanscrit of the Kumara Sambhava, the celebrated poem of Kālidāsa. This translation is from the pen of Mr. R. T. H. Griffith, of Queen's College, Oxford, an oriental scholar who has already distinguished himself by the publication of some elegant versions of Sanscrit poems, entitled "Specimens of old Indian Poetry."

Dr. Woepeke, of Paris, has recently addressed the committee, inviting their attention to the remarkable discovery made by him, of two small mathematical tracts in Arabic, supposed to be versions of the Greek Euclid. One, upon the section of planes, was translated long since, and included in an edition of Euclid, published at Oxford; the other is a treatise on the properties of the lever. Both these tracts have been translated and published by him in a short notice, a copy of which has been presented to the committee by Dr. Woepeke, who has requested the patronage of the committee to a proposed translation of a most interesting commentary upon the Tenth Book of Euclid, which he has recently found in an Arabic manuscript in the Imperial Library, at Paris.

In common with the society, the Committee of the Oriental Translation Fund have to lament, in the death of his Grace the Duke of Wellington, the loss of one of their original patrons and annual subscribers.

Auditors' Report.

Dr. JAMES BIRD read the Report of the Auditors as follows :—

"In presenting their Report the Auditors beg to congratulate the Society on the success which has attended the adoption of the recommendations contained in the Auditors' Report for the year 1851.

"The grant by the Government of the sum of £1000, towards the publication of Colonel Rawlinson's most interesting discoveries, has relieved the society from a burthen, which their limited means were unable to bear; and has placed it in a position to carry on, without inconvenience, by far the most important undertaking in which the Society has been engaged of late years, and which, without this assistance, must probably have been abandoned.

"The abolition of the admission fee has been followed by the accession of forty-two new paying members in the first year, and thirty-two in the second; whereas only twelve were, on an average, admitted during each of the nine preceding years. There has not thus been even the temporary diminution of revenue, which the most sanguine anticipated in the first years of the change: the average income of the preceding years from entrances and subscriptions being £628, whereas, last year, from subscriptions alone, it was £644; and the number of paying members is now greater than at any period during the last ten years, and exceeds the average by twenty-four members, or about twelve per cent; and as there is no reason to anticipate that the accession of members in the ensuing years should be less than the average of the last two, the prosperity of the society may be considered as placed on a far securer basis than before.

"The balance in hand at the end of the last financial year has been £986 4s. 6d., and is estimated at £924 at the end of the present year; and as there is no reason to suppose that the expenditure will exceed the estimate annexed, it is clear that a sum of at least £900 will remain on hand at the end of 1853; and as this is a far larger sum than it appears necessary to keep as a floating balance, the Auditors beg to recommend that the sum of £500 or £600 be invested in Government securities, to replace the amount sold out five years ago, to meet the expense of removal to the present house, which was £642 17s. 1d. consols, realizing £564 3s. 9d.

"JAS. FERGUSSON, } Auditors on the part
H. E. BAGNOLD, } of the Society.

"JAMES BIRD, Auditor on the part of the
Council.

"London, 6th May, 1853."

ABSTRACT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, from the 1st January to 31st December, 1852.

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
130 Subscriptions of Resident Mem- bers, at 3 <i>l.</i> 3 <i>s.</i> each	409 10 0	House Rent, one Year	280 0 0
28 ditto. Original Members, at 2 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i> each	58 16 0	Rates and Taxes	41 12 7
31 ditto. Non-Resident Members, at 1 <i>l.</i> 1 <i>s.</i> each	32 11 0	Fire Insurance on House	5 12 6
Arrears paid up	27 6 0	Ordinary House Expenses, and Housekeeper Coals	£327 5 1
3 Compositions of Resident Members, at 3 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	94 10 0	Salaries of Assistant Secretary, Clerk, Porter, and Armourer	59 14 9
2 ditto, Non-Resident, at 10 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	21 0 0	Collector's Poundage	15 2 0
Second Moiety of Government Grant for the publi- cation of Col. Rawlinson's papers	115 10 0	Lithography, &c., in Journal	235 12 0
Annual Donation of the East India Company	500 0 0	Stitching Journal and Advertising	30 0 0
1 Year's Dividend on 1,300 <i>l.</i> 3 per Cents.	210 0 0	Repairs of House, Furniture, &c.	41 12 3
Publications sold	37 17 4	Books, Bookbinding, and Stationery	22 14 0
	99 13 8	Postage and Carriage, Expenses of Evening Meetings, and Miscellaneous	64 6 3
Balance brought forward from 1851	1491 4 0		91 7 9
	395 15 4		27 7 9
			49 19 3
		Balance in hand, end of 1852	£900 14 10
			986 4 6
			£1886 19 4
[Assets, 1,300 <i>l.</i> 3 per Cent. Consols.]		JAS. FERGUSON. J. BIRD. M. E. BAGNOLD.	
		} Auditors.	

After the reading of the preceding reports, SIR THOMAS EDWARD COLEBROOKE, BART., moved—

“That the Report of the Council, and that of the Auditors, be received and printed; and that the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Auditors for the efficient discharge of their important duties.”

This motion was seconded by SIR THOMAS ERSKINE PERRY, and carried unanimously.

L. R. REID, Esq., moved, and MAJOR T. WILKINSON, seconded the following motion, which was put from the chair, and carried unanimously—

“That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Vice-Presidents and Council, for their effective and zealous management of the affairs of this Society.”

SIR GEORGE STAUNTON, BART., one of the Vice-Presidents, acknowledged the vote.

It was moved by H. T. PRINSEP, Esq., seconded by the RIGHT HON. HOLT MACKENZIE, and carried unanimously—

“That the thanks of the meeting be offered to the learned Director, for the valuable services which he renders, and for the unwearied interest he takes in the prosperity of the Society; and for his kindness in taking the chair on the present occasion.”

The Director in returning thanks said, that it afforded him great gratification to be able to contribute his aid in furthering the objects of the Society, and to assist in promoting its prosperity. The best and surest mode of effecting this object was, for every member to do all in his power to support its character by offering to it the results of his studies and experience, and thus enlarge its stock of useful information. The Society had many formidable competitors in different parts of the world; the Asiatic Societies of Paris, Germany, and America, and the Branch Societies in India were all labouring earnestly and successfully, and it behoved the members to exert themselves in order to maintain the reputation of the Society. He hoped he might be allowed according to his usual custom, to bring to the notice of the members one or two remarkable works, which had lately appeared. A memoir left by the lamented Burnouf contains all that deep learning, critical sagacity and an intimate acquaintance with the language, can probably effect in illustration and interpretation of the ancient inscriptions of Kapur di Giri, Ginnar and Dhauli. Monsieur Stanislas Julien's

translation of the memoirs of "Hiuen Tsang" which have lately appeared, throw considerable light upon the state of India, at the period when they were written: Hiuen Tsang proceeded to India from China, and resided there for seventeen years about the middle of the seventh century. His object was that of learning Sanscrit, and of translating Buddhist works in that language into Chinese. The memoirs, though chiefly of a personal nature, contain many geographical and historical allusions, which are of considerable value in illustrating the condition of India, at the period of his visit. He has given an account of the Sanscrit language and grammar, and as a specimen has endeavoured to express in Chinese characters three tenses of the verb *bhū*, to be. He has also given an account of the Sāṅkhyā philosophy, thus proving the perfection of that system at the time he wrote. Hiuen Tsang and his coadjutors translated into Chinese many Sanscrit and Pali works, and when we become better acquainted with the interior of China, it is probable that some of these works may be found in the monasteries and religious establishments. He would also bring to the notice of the members a short communication which he had received from the Branch Society of Bombay, which contained an interesting abstract of the results of one branch of the investigations of the cave temples of India, which were now being carried on with great vigour and industry.

"The Reverend Dr. Stevenson, in presenting to the Society his translations of the Nassik inscriptions, remarked, that besides some lesser excavations at Nassik, there were three principal Caves bearing on them the names of four sovereigns, who formerly reigned in the Deccan and Guzerat. The first Cave in the series, that most to the left of the group, was constructed by the Queen of Gotamiputra, for Buddhist priests. King Gotamiputra reigned, it is said in the inscription, over all India, and in describing his kingdom, some Gangetic provinces are first mentioned, and then among the hills that are said to have bounded his empire, the Paryama, the Sahyadri, the Malaya, on our side of India, then the Mahendra hills in Cuttack and the Himalayas are specified. The king of Lanka (Ceylon) is said also to have submitted to him. It is on this cave, as previously mentioned by Dr. Stevenson, that the date containing the name of the sovereign Padma is mentioned, and which he made out to refer to the Balabhi era, and hence, since it is dated in the year 19, and the era in question commences with A.D. 319, we get for the date of the cave A.D. 338. Dr. Stevenson accounted for the introduction of this era here, by supposing the Balabhi Monarch to have been the father or brother of Gotamiputra's Queen, by whose order the excavation was made. It is curious to notice that in the principal inscription over this cave, we have mention made of four different institutions, one a hospital for the sick and infirm, another an institution to teach archery, [i.e. a

military college, the word *dhanur* or archery, being used for military science in general,] a third college for the instruction of Buddhist priests, and a fourth an institution to teach Brahmanical science, all in the capital.

"A second inscription over the same excavation is also a remarkable document, containing a regular deed of sale by the owner of the surrounding fields, making over all his right in them, for a sum of money there stipulated, to an agent commissioned by the monarch to purchase it, shewing a very creditable respect for the rights of private property, and depriving the English Government of the honor of first acting upon just principles in this respect.

"The farthest distant large cave, that most to the right, was excavated by the Senapati (military Governor) of Yadnya, Sri Gotamiputra's son, who is mentioned in the annals of China, as noticed in a previous paper.

"The inscriptions on the central cave, however, are the most interesting of all. They record the largesses of a son-in-law and daughter of one of the Indian Satraps, a race of rulers, Deputies first of the ancient Græco-Bactrian monarchs, next for their Parthian successors, and lastly, independent sovereigns. The Kshatrapa or Satrap mentioned in the inscriptions is named Nahapana, and the Sovereign Kshaharata. Neither of these are Indian names. The last is not very far from the Parthian name Phraohates; and about the time of the reign of the fourth Parthian sovereign of that name. From the form of the letters, the inscriptions, Dr. Stevenson thinks, might have been executed, about B.C. 22. The Satrap son-in-law is called Ushavadatta, son of Dinaka, both of which names seem to prove him to have been a native. One of the inscriptions recording the largesses to Brahmans is written in very good Sanscrit, and mentions Prabhās and other places famous in Hindu story. Mention is made also of an expedition into Malabar to assist the Kshatriya rulers, the Nairs, against an insurrection of the natives.

"The two other principal inscriptions are in different kinds of Prærit, one apparently in the dialect of the Deccan, and the other in that of Guzerat. A million of Gold Mohurs, or a million and a half sterling, are said to have been dedicated to the support of the Monastery.

"The fact of Brahmans and Buddhists being equally favoured, and the joint currency of the Sanscrit and Prærit or Pali language at the commencement of our era, are facts fully established by these inscriptions."

Thanking the members once more for the honor they had conferred upon him, he would assure them that as all his labours on behalf of the Society had been productive of great gratification to himself, he should

continue to do all that the time and means at his disposal would allow to maintain the character and promote the objects of the Society.

Moved by DR. BIRD, seconded by CAPTAIN EASTWICK, and carried unanimously—

“That the thanks of the meeting be given to the Honorary Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Librarian, for their valuable services during the past year.”

MR. CLARKE, and MR. ELLIOTT acknowledged the vote.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SYKES moved—

“That this meeting desire to record the high estimation in which they hold Mr. Norris's persevering and enlightened labours in the field of Oriental palæography, and they offer to him their especial thanks for enabling the Society by this last exertion of his talents and acumen, to lay before the world a valuable addition to the stores it already possesses on the languages expressed in cuneatic forms; and a key to further discoveries in this most interesting and important branch of historical and philological research.”

The motion was seconded by the RIGHT HON. HOLT MACKENZIE, and carried unanimously.

MR. NORRIS returned thanks.

CAPTAIN EASTWICK and L. R. REID, Esq., having been appointed Scrutineers, the meeting proceeded to ballot for the Council and Officers for the ensuing year. At the close of the ballot, Professor H. H. WILSON was declared re-elected as Director.

The RIGHT HON. HOLT MACKENZIE was declared duly elected as Vice-President, in the place of Lieutenant-Colonel Sykes, resigned.

The Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, and Librarian were duly elected. The following members were declared elected, to form the Council of the Society for the year:—Colonel M. Bagnold, N. Bland, Esq., J. W. Bosanquet, Esq., Beriah Botfield, Esq., Dr. J. Bird, Major-General J. Briggs, James Fergusson, Esq., G. B. Greenough, Esq., Henry Lewis, Esq., W. H. Morley, Esq., Major J. Oliphant, Sir T. Erskine Perry, Lieutenant-General Sir George Pollock, G.C.B., Henry T. Prinsep, Esq., E. C. Ravenshaw, Esq.